

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CCMS, ENRG, SENV
SUBJECT: CCMS: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION AT SPRING 1977 PLENARY

1. CANADIAN DELEGATION HAS CIRCULATED FOLLOWING
BACKGROUND PAPER ON THE SPRING PLENARY ROUNDTABLE
TOPIC: "ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE
DECISION-MAKING PROCESS."

2. BEGIN TEXT:
INTRODUCTION
IN CANADA, THE PERCEPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT, AND HENCE OUR
UNDERSTANDING OF THE MEANING OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT AND
ITS ACCOMPANYING APPROACH HAS PASSED THROUGH ONE PHASE AND
IS NOW MOVING INTO A SECOND PHASE. THERE IS CONSIDERABLE
EVIDENCE, THAT A THIRD PHASE IS EMERGING AND WILL MATURE
IN THE DECADES TO COME.

IT IS USEFUL TO CONSIDER ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN TERMS OF
THESE PHASES - OR GENERATIONS - TO GAIN SOME INSIGHT INTO
HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IMPACT UPON THE DECISION-
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MAKING PROCESS. WE ARE QUITE FAMILIAR WITH THE FIRST
GENERATION POLICY WHICH FOCUSSES ON DIRECT EFFECTS OF POLLUTION
AND WHICH HAS RESULTED IN VARIOUS POLLUTION CONTROL MEASURES.
FURTHERMORE, WE ARE RAPIDLY GAINING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING
OF THE SECOND GENERATION POLICY WHICH RECOGNIZES THE INTER-
DEPENDENCY AMONG ENERGY, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND THE MAINTEN-
ANCE OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. THE NEWEST PHSE OF ENVIRON-
MENTAL PERCEPTION WILL LEAD TO A THIRD GENERATION OF EN-
VIRONMENTAL POLICY WHICH WE ARE ONLY BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND
CONCEPTUALLY. THE CONCEPT IS BASED ON THE GROWING KNOWLEDGE

THAT MAN'S EXISTENCE ON THIS EARTH WILL INCREASINGLY DEPEND UPON HIS ABILITY TO LEARN TO LIVE IN HARMONY WITH HIS ENVIRONMENT. IT PRESUMES AN INDIVIDUAL "ENVIRONMENTAL ATTITUDE", YET TO BE DEVELOPED - BASICALLY A CHANGE FROM A "CONSUMING" SOCIETY TO A "CONSERVING" SOCIETY.

THESE THREE GENERATIONS OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ARE NOT, OF COURSE, MUTUALLY EXCLUSIVE. THEY WILL ULTIMATELY REPRESENT A MIXTURE OF POLLUTION CONTROL, RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND CONSERVATION POLICIES WHICH WILL MOVE US TOWARD THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ORDERING OF MAN'S USE OF HIS NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TO BETTER ENSURE THE CONTINUED HEALTH OF THE PLANET'S LIFE SUPPORT SYSTEMS. A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE CURRENT SITUATION IN CANADA IN EACH OF THE THREE PERCEPTUAL AREAS IS PRESENTED HEREIN AS A CONTRIBUTION TO THE IDENTIFICATION AND DISCUSSION OF WHAT SEEMS TO US TO BE AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF THE EVOLUTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL THINKING.

UNDER THE CANADIAN CONSTITUTION THERE IS AN APPORTIONMENT OF LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY AS BETWEEN THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. AS A GENERAL RULE THE PROVINCES BEAR THE MAJOR RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES CLEARLY WITHIN THEIR BOUNDARIES WHILE THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS PRIMARY JURISDICTION OVER MATTERS HAVING AN EXTRAPROVINCIAL ASPECT SUCH AS INTERPROVINCIAL AND INTERNATIONAL WATERS AND ANADROMOUS AND SALT WATER FISHERIES. IN SOME OTHER AREAS, UNCLASSIFIED

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SUCH AS AGRICULTURE, RESPONSIBILITY IS SHARED. THERE ARE, ALSO, SOME AREAS SUCH AS AIR AND WATER POLLUTION WHICH WERE SIMPLY NOT FORESEEN AT THE TIME THE CONSTITUTION WAS WRITTEN. THE ROLE OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS MUST, THEREFORE, BE VIEWED IN THE LIGHT OF THIS DIVISION AND SHARING OF LEGISLATIVE COMPETENCE.

FIRST GENERATION ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
CANADA'S FIRST RESPONSE TO THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE WAS REFLECTED IN THE GOVERNMENT REORGANIZATION ACT OF 1970 WHICH ESTABLISHED THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT (NOW THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT (DFE)) AND DEFINED ITS MANDATE. THE ACT BROUGHT TOGETHER A NUMBER OF EXISTING GROUPS FROM OTHER DEPARTMENTS - FORESTRY, WILDLIFE, WATER, ATMOSPHERIC PHYSICS AND METEOROLOGY, FISHERIES AND MARINE SCIENCES.

IN THE EARLY STAGES, THE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY FOCUS WAS ON WATER. THE FISHERIES ACT PROVIDED AN EFFECTIVE BASIS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPECIFIC POLLUTION DISCHARGE LIMITS.

OTHER ACTS, DEVELOPED BETWEEN THE TIME THE DEPARTMENT WAS FORMED AND LAST YEAR, ALONG WITH SIMILAR PROVINCIAL LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES, HAVE GONE A LONG WAY TO ROUNDING OUT CANADA'S

FIRST GENERATION POLICY REQUIREMENTS. EXAMPLES OF FEDERAL LEGISLATION INCLUDE THE CANADA WATER ACT, THE CLEAN AIR ACT AND THE RECENTLY PROMULGATED ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINANTS AND OCEAN DUMPING CONTROL ACTS.

VERY EARLY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE FEDERAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM, THE DESIRABILITY AND NECESSITY OF ESTABLISHING A SYSTEM FOR FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL COLLABORATION AND INDUSTRIAL PARTICIPATION BECAME EVIDENT. A SYSTEM OF FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL "ACCORDS" HAS BEEN DEVELOPED AND A WIDE-RANGE OF FORMAL AND INFORMAL FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATIVE MECHANISMS HAS BEEN PUT INTO PLACE. WITH INDUSTRY, A TASK FORCE APPROACH HAS

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BEEN TAKEN WHICH IS DESIGNED TO INVOLVE INDUSTRY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES AND IN DETERMINING THE BEST PRACTICABLE TECHNOLOGICAL SOLUTIONS FOR INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION PROBLEMS.

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A MOST INTERESTING EXAMPLE OF GOVERNMENT/INDUSTRY COOPERATION IN CANADA IS THE DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION OF POLLUTION ABATEMENT TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM (DPAT), WHICH IS TANGIBLE RECOGNITION OF THE FACT THAT THE TECHNOLOGY USED TODAY IN COMBATING ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS MAY BE OUTDATED BY THE END OF THE DECADE. DPAT IS PRIMARILY DESIGNED TO ASSIST CANADIAN INDUSTRIES IN THE DEVELOPMENT AND DEMONSTRATION OF NEW METHODS, PROCEDURES, PROCESSES AND EQUIPMENT THAT WILL EITHER PREVENT, ELIMINATE OR REDUCE THE RELEASE OF POLLUTANTS. HOPEFULLY, WITH TECHNOLOGICAL IMPROVEMENT THERE CAN BE A CONCURRENT REDUCTION IN THE PERMISSIBLE LEVELS OF EMISSIONS AND EFFLUENTS.

THE FIRST GENERATION POLICY IN CANADA IS THEREFORE WELL-

ADVANCED. MUCH NEEDS TO BE DONE TO FINE-TUNE PARTS OF THE SYSTEM SUCH AS IMPROVING INFORMATION FLOWS, DEFINING PRIORITY RESEARCH AREAS, AND COORDINATING OUR RESEARCH AND MONITORING SYSTEMS. THIS IS NOT THE CASE FOR THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEM VIEWED IN TERMS OF SECOND GENERATION RESOURCE MANAGEMENT POLICIES. HOWEVER, PROGRESS IS BEING MADE.

SECOND GENERATION ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY
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WHILE ALLEVIATION OF ACUTE, VISIBLE AND MEASURABLE SYMPTOMS OF ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE MUST BE A CONTINUING ENDEAVOUR, THE CONSEQUENCES OF ENERGY AND RESOURCE MISMANAGEMENT POST A SERIOUS THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT IN THE LONGER TERM. THIS IS GENERALLY ACKNOWLEDGED, AND IN CANADA, SEVERAL INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY GOVERNMENTS IN RESPONSE TO THE OBVIOUS NEED TO DEVELOP THE OVERALL MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES FOR ENERGY AND RESOURCES IN ACCORDANCE WITH SOUND ENVIRONMENTAL PRINCIPLES. THE RECENT "ENERGY CRISIS" HAS OF COURSE, ACCELERATED ACTION IN THIS DIRECTION. INITIATIVES MUST BE COMPREHENSIVE HERE IN THE SENSE THAT THEY NEED TO GO BEYOND CONSIDERATION OF SPECIFIC ENERGY OF RESOURCE MANAGEMENT OBJECTIVES, WHICH HAVE IN THE PAST BEEN PRIMARILY ECONOMIC ORIENTED. ECOLOGICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS MUST BE IDENTIFIED AND TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION.

IN TERMS OF LEGISLATION, ONE INITIATIVE IS THE CANADA WATER ACT, (CWA) WHICH PROVIDES A MEANS WHEREBY THE FEDERAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS CAN ENTER INTO COST-SHARED AGREEMENTS TO UNDERTAKE COMPREHENSIVE RIVER BASIN PLANNING, ESTABLISH REGULATIONS AND SET UP WATER QUALITY MANAGEMENT AGENCIES. THE CWA PROVIDES FOR FEDERAL-PROVINCIAL CONSULTATION AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT IN THE DECISION PROCESS. ALL USES OF THE WATER BASIN CAN BE CONSIDERED UNDER THIS ACT. THIS APPROACH HAS LED TO INCREASING ATTENTION BEING GIVEN TO A NUMBER OF AREAS, FOR EXAMPLE, THE DETERMINATION OF SOCIAL COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH WATER POLLUTION, THE STUDY OF ALTERNATIVE INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS AND PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT TECHNIQUES. PERHAPS THE TWO MOST IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE CWA TO SECOND GENERATION THINKING HAVE BEEN (1) THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF WATER RESOURCE PLANNING AND WATER QUALITY NEEDS AND (2) THE IMPETUS GIVEN TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF COOPERATIVE COMPREHENSIVE PLANNING TECHNIQUES AND RESEARCH.

ANOTHER RECENT INITIATIVE BY DFE, PROMPTED IN THIS CASE BY FEDERAL ENERGY R&D PLANNING ACTIVITIES, IS A FEASIBILITY STUDY ON THE PRODUCTION OF METHANOL FROM FOREST BIOMASS WHICH HAS PROMPTED FURTHER CONSIDERATION BY A
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FEDERAL TASK FORCE. THE INCREASED USE OF RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES IS INEVITABLE IN VIEW OF THE DEPLETION

OF NON-RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES. WE SEE THIS TREND AS ONE WHICH IS A DESIRABLE AND NECESSARY STEP IN DEVELOPING A SOUND PROGRAM OF MANAGEMENT OF THE USE OF OUR ENVIRONMENT. RECENT INCREASES IN THE FUNDING OF RENEWABLE ENERGY R&D - SOLAR, BIOMASS, WIND, TIDAL, GEOTHERMAL - IS SEEN AS A STEP TOWARD DEVELOPING AN ENVIRONMENTALLY APPROPRIATE BALANCE IN ENERGY UTILIZATION AND INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT.

THIRD GENERATION ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY INITIATIVES

INITIATIVES SUCH AS NOTED ABOVE, HOWEVER IMPORTANT AND NECESSARY, DO NOT ATTACK THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS UNDERLYING THE CONTINUING DEGRADATION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT. IN TERMS OF BOTH STUDY AND ACTION, THESE PROBLEMS GO BEYOND THE MANDATE OF ANY ONE GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT. THEY ARE SET IN THE VERY CULTURAL TRADITION OF OUR SOCIETY AND IN THE INSTITUTIONAL FORMS WHICH SERVE IT. WHILE THESE MORE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEMS WILL NOT BE SOLVED IN THE SHORT TERM, THERE IS AN INCREASING AMOUNT OF ACTIVITY BEING DEVOTED TO DEVELOPING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF THEIR NATURE. THIS IS OCCURRING ON TWO FRONTS WHICH ARE MORE AND MORE BECOMING INTEGRALLY LINKED - ECOLOGICAL AND POLICY RESEARCH. IN DFE, A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF THE SCIENCE BUDGET IS DEVOTED TO GAINING A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OUR ECOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL SYSTEMS.

LESS ATTENTION HAS BEEN GIVEN TO HOW THIS UNDERSTANDING CAN BE INCORPORATED IN THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS. MUCH MORE POLICY RESEARCH IS REQUIRED AND ALTHOUGH DFE HAS BEEN INVOLVED IN SEVERAL INITIATIVES, THE FACT THAT WE ARE INVOLVED IN RESEARCH OF A NATURE THAT WE DO NOT YET FULLY UNDERSTAND MAY EXPLAIN WHY PROGRESS HAS BEEN SLOW.

THE CANADA MAN AND THE BIOSPHERE PROGRAM, WHILE CURRENTLY IMPEDED BY A LACK OF RESEARCH FUNDING, HAS DEVELOPED THE BASIS FOR INTERDISCIPLINARY POLICY-ORIENTED RESEARCH IN FOUR ISSUE AREAS OF PARTICULAR CONCERN TO CANADA, VIZ: COSTAL ECOSYSTEMS, THE NORTH, THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTRY-AGRICULTURE.

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A SECOND FOCUS OF ACTIVITY BY A NUMBER OF FEDERAL AGENCIES INCLUDING DFE IS ON FUTURE RESEARCH. THIS FORM OF POLICY RESEARCH ATTEMPTS TO UNDERSTAND THE NATURE OF SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE TO ASSIST IN POLICY DEVELOPMENT. THREE PROJECTS IN WHICH DFE HAS PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE WILL SERVE TO ILLUSTRATE THE RANGE OF INTEREST AND THE RANGE OF POTENTIAL INFLUENCE ON THE DECISION PROCESS.

THE FIRST IS A SERIES OF "CONSERVATION SOCIETY PROJECTS" IN WHICH THE OBJECTIVE IS TO EXPLORE THE IMPLICATIONS - SOCIAL, ENVIRONMENTAL, TECHNOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC - OF "DOING MORE WITH LESS". THE PROJECTS HAVE GENERATED NATIONAL INTEREST.

A SECOND INITIATIVE TAKEN BY DFE AND THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY IS THE SPONSORSHIP OF TWO WORKSHOPS ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT. THIS IS AN INITIAL STEP, FIRSTLY, TO GAIN SOME UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE NEEDS OF LDC'S MIGHT BETTER BE MET IN LIGHT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CRITERIA AND SECONDLY,

TO EXPLORE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS TO DOMESTIC POLICY DEVELOPMENT.

A THIRD SOMEWHAT DIFFERENT, ALTHOUGH COMPLEMENTARY PROJECT IS THE PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND "ARK". THE "ARK", A WIND POWERED, SOLAR HEATED BUILDING IS A DEMONSTRATION OF THE INTEGRATION OF CURRENT KNOWLEDGE IN THE AREAS OF RENEWABLE ENERGY RESOURCES, AQUACULTURE AND GREENHOUSE CULTURE. IT IS DESIGNED TO DEMONSTRATE THE POSSIBILITIES FOR DEVELOPING A VIRTUALLY SELF-SUFFICIENT FAMILY UNIT. ITS IMPORTANCE IS SEEN IN THREE WAYS:

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- (1) THE USE OF WIND AND SOLAR TECHNOLOGY FOR SMALL LIVING OR COMMERCIAL AQUACULTURE AND GREENHOUSE UNITS,
- (2) DEMONSTRATION OF THE USE AND INTEGRATION OF SOPHISTICATED TECHNOLOGY IN A WAY WHICH WILL APPEAL TO THE DEMANDS OF AN INCREASING SEGMENT OF THE CANADIAN PEOPLE FOR GREATER INDIVIDUAL SELF-SUFFICIENCY, AND
- (3) DEMONSTRATION OF ENVIRONMENTALLY APPROPRIATE DESIGN, TECHNOLOGY AND BIO CULTURE.

THE THREE PROJECTS CHOSEN TO ILLUSTRATE INITIATIVES IN THE AREA OF THIRD GENERATION ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ARE NOT LARGE. MANY OTHER COMPLEMENTARY ACTIVITIES ARE GOING ON IN CANADA. HOWEVER, IT IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR HOW AND WHEN SUCH ACTIVITIES WILL IMPACT THE POLICY-DECISION PROCESS. MANY OF OUR SCIENTISTS ARE CONCERNED THAT PROGRESS IS TOO SLOW AND THAT TIME IS RUNNING OUT, AND PERHAPS THEY ARE RIGHT. HOWEVER, CHANGES AS RADICAL AS THOSE IMPLIED BY THE TENTATIVE CONCLUSIONS REFLECTED IN THE ABOVE-NOTED EXAMPLES CANNOT BE INITIATED RAPIDLY.

A LINKING PROCESS

IN ESTABLISHING THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT, THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA DID NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE FACT THAT IT TOO
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COULD BE GUILTY OF POLLUTION, AND BY A CABINET DIRECTIVE OF JUNE 1972 COMMITTED ITSELF TO THE PRINCIPLE THAT IT SHOULD DEMONSTRATE LEADERSHIP THROUGH THE CONTROL AND ABATEMENT OF POLLUTION WITHIN ITS OWN FEDERAL ACTIVITIES.

THE CLEAN-UP PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY DFE IS BASICALLY A FUNDING MECHANISM TO ASSIST OTHER FEDERAL GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENTS IN THEIR CLEAN-UP OF POLLUTION SOURCES AT FEDERAL FACILITIES IN EXISTENCE PRIOR TO JUNE 1972. DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS APPROXIMATELY \$50,000,000 HAS BEEN ALLOCATED TO MORE THAN 500 FEDERAL LAND-BASED FACILITIES AND SHIPS. IN ADDITION, DFE PROVIDES TECHNICAL ADVICE TO ASSIST FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS TO ELIMINATE SOURCES OF POLLUTION IN THEIR OWN OPERATIONS.

THIS PROGRAM WAS EXTENDED BY A CABINET DIRECTIVE OF DEC 1973 WHICH PROVIDED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW PROCESS. THIS PROCESS FOCUSSES ON ALL PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN BY FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES, AND THOSE FOR WHICH FEDERAL FUNDS ARE SOLICITED OR WHICH INVOLVE FEDERAL PROPERTY.

THE BASIC PRINCIPLE UNDERLINING THE PROCESS IS ONE OF SELF-ASSESSMENT. FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES ARE INITIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSESSING PROJECTS WHICH THEY INITIATE OR SPONSOR (IN TERMS OF FEDERAL FUNDS OR PROPERTY) AND FOR DECIDING ON THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE ANTICIPATED ADVERSE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS. WHETHER POTENTIAL ADVERSE EFFECTS ARE CONSIDERED SIGNIFICANT OR NOT DEPENDS ON THE JUDGEMENT OF TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIALISTS WITHIN THE GOVERNMENT WHO ALSO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT POTENTIAL PUBLIC OR PROFESSIONAL CONCERN. PROJECTS WITH SIGNIFICANT EFFECTS ARE REFERRED TO AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PANEL ESTABLISHED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF FISHERIES AND THE ENVIRONMENT FOR A FORMAL REVIEW. IN SPECIAL CASES WHERE A FEDERAL PROJECT COMMANDS WIDE PUBLIC INTEREST, THE MINISTER OF THE ENVIRONMENT, IN COOPERATION WITH THE OTHER MINISTERS CONCERNED, MAY ESTABLISH AN ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW BOARD EXTERNAL TO THE FEDERAL PUBLIC SERVICE TO CARRY OUT THE FORMAL REVIEW.

AT THE PROVINCIAL LEVEL, ALL GOVERNMENTS HAVE TAKEN ACTION TO INSTITUTE AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PROCESS. A SEPARATE UNCLASSIFIED

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REVIEW AGENCY OR MECHANISM IS CALLED FOR IN FIVE OF THE PROVINCES WHILE IN THE OTHERS THIS FUNCTION IS ASSIGNED TO THE APPROPRIATE DEPARTMENT. GUIDELINES FOR THE PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED BY ALBERTA, MANITOBA, NEWFOUNDLAND, ONTARIO AND SASKATCHEWAN.

AN INCREASING NUMBER OF MAJOR CANADIAN PROJECTS HAVE BEEN EXAMINED FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS. THESE STUDIES HAVE BEEN AIMED AT IMPROVING THE OVERALL DESIGN TO MINIMIZE UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS AND, IN SOME CASES, TO ESTABLISH WHETHER OR NOT A PROJECT SHOULD PROCEED. STUDIES OF UNDESIRABLE EFFECTS HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN, FOR EXAMPLE, FOR THE MACKENZIE VALLEY PIPELINE AND THE PEACE-ATHABASCA HYDRO PROJECT. AT THE PRESENT TIME ALMOST ALL MAJOR CANADIAN DEVELOPMENTAL PROJECTS ARE COMING UNDER SOME FORM OF SCRUTINY TO DETERMINE ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS.

THE DEGREE TO WHICH THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS CAN INFLUENCE POLICIES, PROGRAMS AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES WILL DEPEND ON PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF CHANGES IN LIFE STYLES, MATERIAL WEALTH, ENERGY USE, AND THE GROWTH OF THE ECONOMY AS WE PRESENTLY ENVISION IT. CHANGES IN THESE AREAS WILL BE SLOW. HOWEVER, THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS PROVIDES A MECHANISM FOR LINKING THE THREE POLICY GENERATIONS DISCUSSED IN THIS PRESENTATION AND FOR INFLUENCING THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

CONCLUSION

IN THIS PAPER WE HAVE ATTEMPTED TO EXAMINE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY IN RELATION THREE PHASES OR GENERATIONS IN ORDER TO GAIN SOME INSIGHT INTO HOW ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS CAN AFFECT THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

THE FIRST GENERATION APPROACH REPRESENTS A GOOD START WITH SIGNIFICANT IMPACT BUT IT IS THROUGH THE SECOND GENERATION PHASE THAT THE IMPACT BECOMES TELLING WHEN ENERGY CONSERVATION AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT ARE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT. THE THIRD GENERATION APPROACH, HOWEVER, IS STILL VAGUE AND ITS EFFECTS HAVE NOT REALLY BEEN FELT YET IN THE DECISION-MAKING PROCESS.

OUR GOAL HOWEVER, IS RESPONSIBLE STEWARDSHIP OF OUR PARTICULAR PART OF THE PLANET, AND THIS DEMANDS THAT ALL THREE GENERATIONS

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BE GIVEN ADQUATE AND CONTINUING ATTENTION. THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT PROCESS IS SEEN AS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO OUR STEWARDSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES THROUGH ITS AUTOMATIC REQUIREMENT TO FOCUS ATTENTION SYSTEMATICALLY ON EACH OF THRE THREE GENERATIONS DISCUSSED IN THIS PAPER.

END TEXT.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PASS ABOVE TEXT TO US EXPERT WHO WILL PARTICIPATE IN PLENARY ROUNDTABLE SO THAT BE CAN PREPARE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE.

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